CHAPTER I.

AREA AND BOUNDARIES.

1.—AREA.

21. The selection of forest-lands or waste-lands for forest reservations was carried on systematically during the year in the divisions of North and South Thána, East and West Khándesh and Ahmednagar, by officers specially appointed for the purpose; while in other divisions Assistant or Deputy Collectors performed this work, where it was required to be undertaken, in addition to their own Revenue and Magisterial duties.

22. The following statement shows the respective areas added to, and excluded from, the forest areas existing at the commencement of the year in the several divisions; and also the acreage remaining in forest reservations duly constituted under the Indian Forest Act at the end of the year:—

No.	Division.	Area on 1st April 1888.				Added during the year.				Disforested during the year.				Area on 31st March 1889.			
		Reserved.		Protected.		Reserved.		Protected.		Reserved.		Protected.		Reserved.		Protected.	
		Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.
1	North Thána	284	536	208	369	15	122	..	..	..	2	2	529	300	16	295	480
2	South Thána	325	395	352	388	1	267	..	..	..	1	..	4	327	21	352	384
3	East Khándesh	724	472	68	161	75	108	..	..		100	15	..	799	480	53	161
4	West Khándesh .	1,237	634	195	151	..	302	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,238	296	195	151
5	Násik	1,107	315	..	..	170	480	..	..	..	247	..	..	1,277	548	..	..
6	Ahmednagar	822	540	11	114	36	357	..	..	..	286	..	..	858	611	11	114
7	Poona	727	508	.	..	13	185	..	..	..	540	..	..	740	148	..	..
8	Sátára	664	366	..	17	5	456	..	11	4	131	..	..	666	1	..	28
9	Sholápur	270	547	..	..	1	557	..	..	..	18	..	..	272	446	..	..
10	Surat	69	124	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	69	124	..	..
11	Dángs	678	320	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	678	320	..	..
12	Kaira	..	39	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39	..	..
13	Panch Maháls	179	377	140	253	7	273	1	142	3	473	2	310	183	177	139	85
14	Ahmedabad	34	118	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34	118	..	..
	Total ..	7,128	166	1,066	173	327	547	1	153	9	568	20	203	7,446	145	1,047	123

23. The year commenced with 8,194 square miles and 339 acres, made up of 7,128 square miles and 166 acres of reserved, and 1,066 square miles and 173 acres of protected, forests under forest conservancy. 327 square miles and 547 acres of reserved forests appear as added during the year; but 82 square miles and 536 acres of this quantity do not represent expansion of forest reservation, but only an increase on paper, owing to a rectification of figures made in the forest lists of the Násik Division, careful examination of the Revenue Survey Records having shown that the sum total of the acreage of all the survey numbers which comprise the reserved forests in that division is greater by 82 square miles and 536 acres than had been previously recorded by the Forest Settlement Officer. The actual expansions of the reserved forests perfected by notifications published during the year under Section 19 of the Forest Act aggregate 245 square miles and 11 acres. And the net increase in the reserved forest acreage on the forest registers after deduction has been made of the disforestations, amounting to 9 square miles and 568 acres, which have been effected from time to time under Section 26 of the said Act, is shown as 317 square miles, 619 acres, while the actual expansion of the reserved forest areas is only 235 square miles and 83 acres.

24. One square mile and 153 acres have been added to the protected forests, and 20 square miles and 203 acres have been removed from protected forests during the year; and by these changes a decrease of 19 square miles and 50 acres in the area of protected forests has been produced, but the greater portion of the removed has been transformed into "Reserved Forests."

25. The total area maintained in forest conservancy at the close of the year under Chapters II. and IV. of the Forest Act is 8,493 square miles and 268

acres, consisting of 7,446 square miles and 145 acres of reserved, and 1,047 square miles and 123 acres of protected forests. These figures indicate the sum total of the increase of the territorial area of forest conservancy to be 298 square miles and 569 acres, but, as explained above, 82 square miles and 536 acres do not represent actual expansions of reservations, and are added by rectification of incorrect entries in the forest registers.

26. It must at the same time be noted that 34 square miles and 118 acres of the reserved forests in the Modása Petha of the Ahmedabad Collectorate, included in the above statement, have not yet been placed under the management of the Forest Department, but continue in charge of the Collector of the District, as was the case during the preceding year; and also that the 39 acres of reserved forests shown against Kaira, which were removed from the charge of the Forest Department under the orders of Government Resolution No. 4332, dated 29th May 1884, in the Revenue Department, not having been disforested by notification under Section 26 of the Forest Act up to date, are still entered in the statement as forest, although their management is under the Land Revenue Department, who dispose of the grass upon these lands by public auction sales.

27. The following statement shows how far the work of forest demarcation, meaning the selection and constitution under the Indian Forest Act VII of 1878 of lands for forest reservation, had progressed up to the close of the year; and the proportions that the reserved forests bear to the territorial areas of different Collectorates in the Northern Circle. "Protected Forests" are not taken into account as they are not considered to be permanent reservations :—

No.	Collectorates.	Territorial area in Square Miles.	Reserved Forests duly constituted in Square Miles.	Percentage of Forests.	Number of Tálukás or Revenue Sub-Divisions.	Number of Tálukás in which Demarcation has been undertaken and sanctioned.	Number of Tálukás in which Demarcation remains to be completed.	Number of undemarcated Tálukás.
1	Thána	3,936	627	15·9	10	6	1	3
2	Khándesh	9,944	2,038	20·4	16	10	4	2
3	Násik	5,940	1,278	21·5	12	11	1	...
4	Ahmednagar ...	6,666	859	12·8	11	11	...	...
5	Poona	5,348	740	13·8	8	8	...	...
6	Sátára	4,988	666	13·3	11	11	...	...
7	Sholápur	4,521	273	6·0	7	7	...	...
8	Surat*	1,662	70	4·2	8	1	3	4
9	Panch Maháls ...	1,613	183	11·3	3	3	...	...
10	Ahmedabad ...	3,821	34	0·88	7	1	...	6
	Total ...	48,439	6,768	13·9	93	69	9	15

* The Dángs are not included.

28. It will be seen from the statement that in the Collectorates of Ahmednagar, Poona, Sátára, Sholápur and Panch Maháls no demarcation work remains to be done. But the work of acquiring tracts of occupied lands which are included in the sanctioned demarcation schemes of the several tálukás of these Collectorates, as well as of the others, was going on during the year, and a sum, Rs. 32,013, was expended in payment of the compensation for the obtainment of 2,031 acres of such lands.

29. In addition to the duly constituted reserved and protected forests considerable areas of forest-lands and of waste-lands which have been selected for forest reservation and in this view have been provisionally notified under Sections 4 and 28 of the Forest Act, were still undergoing inquiries at the close of the year. The following statement gives the distribution of such unsettled forest-lands in the different Collectorates of the Northern Circle :—

No.	Collectorates.	Reserved Forests under Section 4.		Protected Forests under Section 28.		Total.	
		S. Miles.	Acres.	S. Miles.	Acres.	S. Miles.	Acres.
1	Thána	75	626	...	...	75	626
2	Khándesh	198	463	260	493	459	316
3	Násik	...	326	...	...	...	326
4	Ahmednagar	5	559	...	...	5	559
5	Poona	3	214	...	...	3	214
6	Sátára	8	394	...	...	8	394
7	Sholápur	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Surat	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Panch Mahals	14	30	...	...	14	30
	Total ...	307	52	260	493	567	545

30. Mr. W. S. Owen, Assistant Superintendent, Revenue Survey, continued to be Forest Settlement Officer throughout the year in the Thána Collectorate. And from the commencement of the year up to the end of May 1888 this officer was engaged in the Wáda Táluka on field demarcation, inspecting and revising, where required, the location and the boundaries of the proposed reserved forests which had been provisionally selected by Mr. Wilkins, the Divisional Forest Officer. In some cases an altogether new line was adopted, while in many cases Mr. Wilkins' boundary, which, generally speaking, corresponds with the revenue survey boundary, was fixed. Mr. Owen then moved into the Bhiwndi Táluka, where negotiations were carried on with survey occupants for the surrender of some lands required for inclusion in reserved forests: this work lasted up to the middle of June. During the rainy season at Thána a variety of work was accomplished by the Forest Settlement Officer, including enquires into rights over teak and other reserved trees upon occupied lands in four tálukás. After the rains and up to the close of the year under report, the demarcation of reserved forests in the Máhím Táluka occupied all Mr. Owen's time and attention.

31. Government Resolution No. 5177, dated 1st August 1888, was passed on the supplementary report on the demarcation and settlement of the Bassein Táluka, and the notifications, as per margin, were published under Section 19 as regards the lands in the tálukás of Bassein, Bhiwndi and Kalyán, and Petha Mokháda; and a provisional notification, under Section 4 of the Forest Act, was published in the *Government Gazette* of the 28th March 1889, in respect of forest-lands and waste-lands to be constituted reserved forests in the Sháhápur Táluka. The greater portion of these forest-lands are protected forests, which were gazetted under Section 34 in March 1879. Rs. 4,649-2-0 were expended in payment of compensation for acquiring 212 acres and 37 gunthás of lands for forest purposes by the Forest Settlement Officer, and Rs. 18,053-6-8 by the Special Officer, Tánsa Water Works, for acquiring 1,078 acres and 29 gunthás of occupied lands for forest reservation.

Bassein.
Government Notification No. 5177 B., dated 1st August 1888.

Mokháda.
Government Notification No. 5915, dated 3rd September 1888.

Bhiwndi.
Government Notification No. 6457 A., dated 25th September 1888.
Government Notification No. 7214, dated 29th October 1888.

Kalyán.
Government Notification No. 7732 A., dated 19th November 1888.

32. Mr. C. G. Dodgson, C. S., was in charge of the Forest Settlement Office, Khándesh, throughout the year, and from the commencement of the year up to the rains was engaged in demarcating Bhil settlements inside the Taloda Plain Reserved Forests, and in laying down the boundaries of the Western Taloda Plain Reserves, in the Navápur Petha in revising the boundaries of the two old reserves in the north, known as the Nesu and South Tápti Reserves. A report on the demarcation of these forests was submitted to Government, who, in their Resolution No. 7451, dated 9th November 1888, have sanctioned the proposed schemes with slight modifications. The revised proposals of the Chálisgaon

Táluka were approved and sanctioned by Government, with certain modifications, in their Resolution No. 641, dated 24th January 1889, in the Revenue Department. The inquiry into forest rights of 2 out of 14 Inám villages remaining to be dealt with, was also completed on 31st July 1888. Mr. Dodgson proceeded on three months' privilege leave, handing over charge to Mr. Fraser, C. S. On his return from leave Mr. Dodgson was engaged in the Páchora Táluka in making local inquiries concerning the existence of rights over land intended to be included in reserved forests which had been notified under Section 4 of the Act under sanction of Government Resolution No. 2478, dated 24th April 1888, in the Revenue Department, and also in making inquiries into the existence of rights over certain lands hitherto occupied but recently notified under Section 4 of the Forest Act, in the Sávda Táluka: he then returned to the Dhulia Táluka and continued the inspection and selection of old protected forests for conversion into reserved forests; and on completing this work he proceeded to the Shirpur Táluka and demarcated the boundaries of Bhil settlements, and from thence passed on to the Akráni Parganá, inspecting the boundaries of the Akráni Toranmál Reserve and the Bhil settlements situated inside the reserve; this work was still unfinished at the close of the year. Rs. 5,999-8-0, sanctioned in Government Resolution No. 8680, dated 28th December 1888, were expended in purchasing 842 $\frac{31}{40}$ acres of occupied lands in the Bhusával Táluka. Thus it will be seen that considerable progress was made and excellent work performed by Mr. Dodgson during the year; and Forest conservancy in the Khándesh Collectorate, in so far as reservation of lands for forest preservation is concerned, is established upon a substantial foundation.

33. There has been no special Forest Settlement Officer for the Násik Collectorate as demarcations were nearly completed last year. The forest area has undergone but little change, except in the Peint and Igatpuri Tálukás, where some forest tracts were added to the reserved forests to give solidity and compactness to previous selections. The demarcation of Peint was sanctioned last year, but it has been recorded that stretches of well timbered forest lands have not been included in the selected reserved forests where their inclusion would solidify and connect forest blocks naturally continuous but now detached. The demarcation of the Igatpuri Táluka was sanctioned in Government Resolution No. 3770, dated 11th June 1888, Revenue Department. The only táluka in which any considerable additions to reserves may yet be made is Dindori, where the final notifications under Section 19 of the Act remain still to be issued. Minor additions were made to Násik, Dindori, Chándvad, Báglán and Kalvan Tálukás, and some slight exclusions from the forest areas in the Igatpuri, Yeola and Báglán Tálukás.

34. Mr. Woodburn, C.S., was in special charge of the Forest Settlement Office, Ahmednagar, from 1st April to 30th June 1889, Mr. C. B. Winchester, C.S., in charge from 1st July to 5th September, and Mr. V. B. Vádekor, Deputy Collector, from 6th September till the close of the year; the two latter officers conducted the office, in addition to their own Revenue and Magisterial duties. 759 acres and 33 gunthás of occupied lands which are included in sanctioned demarcation schemes were purchased during the year at an expenditure of Rs. 2,606-12-10. Inquiry for the determination and settlement of lands already notified under Section 4 was also carried on, and some of the lands have been finally notified under Section 19. Government, in their Resolution No. 4661, dated 13th July 1888, in the Revenue Department, approved and sanctioned certain changes in the demarcation of eight villages in the Sangamner Táluka. These changes provide for:—

(*a*) the disforestation of 286 acres and 39 gunthás,

(*b*) the exclusion, from the demarcation, of 21 acres and 3 gunthás of waste lands,

(*c*) the acquirement of 747 acres and 25¾ gunthás of occupied lands,

and in their Resolution No. 2483, dated 30th March 1889, in the Revenue Department, Government sanctioned the modifications proposed by Mr. Woodburn of the original demarcation of the Akola Táluka.

35. There was no special Demarcation and Settlement Officer in the Poona Collectorate; therefore such demarcation and settlement work as remains to be completed has been carried on at different times by one of the Assistant Collectors in charge of the Revenue sub-divisions, in addition to his own Revenue and Magisterial duties; the office came under the following officers:—

Mr. Silcock, C. S., from 1st April to 5th June.
„ Logan, C. S., from 6th June to 6th August.
„ Symonds, C. S., from 7th August to 18th August.
„ Gibb, C. S., from 19th August to 31st March 1889.

36. Mr. Silcock had, up to the date of his departure, completed the settlement of the Khed and Háveli Tálukás and A'mbegaon Petha: he also effected the final settlement of the Koita holdings in Khed and A'mbegaon. His proceedings regarding the Bhiwegaon Koita holdings have been approved of by Government in their Resolution No. 4471-80 (Confidential), dated 7th July 1888, in the Revenue Department. The Demarcation and Settlement Report of the Háveli Táluka, referred to in paragraph 28 of last year's report, received the sanction of Government, in their Resolution No. 1327, dated 16th February 1889, Revenue Department; and the modifications recommended by Mr. Silcock in his supplementary report on the Junnar Táluka were sanctioned by Government in their Resolution No. 4826, dated 20th July 1888, in the Revenue Department. The Settlement Report of Mulshi has also received the sanction of Government in their Resolution No. 5471, dated 13th August 1888, Revenue Department, but a further reference has been made to Government upon some minor points.

37. Forest settlement enquiries in the eastern portion of the district were made by Mr. Gibb from November to the end of March. Supplementary enquiries were also made as regards all forests in the several ranges. Complete records of rights have been drawn up; and thus, with the exception of Donja, a large forest village in the Haveli Táluka, and of the Singhar forests, the settlements of the district have all now been completed. 83 acres and 14 gunthás of occupied lands were acquired by purchase, the compensation amounting to Rs. 240, and 572½ acres of occupied lands were obtained by exchanges. The total area acquired amounted to 655 acres.

38. No special officer was employed in the Sátára Collectorate to carry on the settlement and demarcation work, but it was entrusted to the Deputy and Assistant Collectors in their Revenue sub-divisions. The officers engaged were Messrs. Snow, C. S., L. G. Deshmukh, and Scott. No fresh demarcation work was undertaken during the year. The Forest Settlement and Demarcation Report of the Válva Táluka, referred to in paragraph 29 of last year's report, was sanctioned by Government in their Resolution No. 7348, dated 5th November 1888, in the Revenue Department, but that of Pátan is still before Government. The negotiations entered into with Inámdárs, regarding the assignment of certain areas selected in their respective villages for purposes of forest conservancy, have not met with success; almost all the Inámdárs refuse to transfer the management of these lands to Government. Rs. 376-7-0 were expended in payment of compensation for acquiring 132 acres and 1 guntha of occupied lands for forests.

39. There is no demarcation left to be done in the Sholápur Collectorate, but Mr. B. R. Heblikar, District Deputy Collector, was Forest Settlement Officer, in addition to his Revenue duties. His work was confined to the settlement of lands which have been already included in the demarcation schemes of all the tálukás sanctioned by Government. 1,196 acres and 29 gunthás of lands were notified under Section 19 after the completion of the inquiries required by Chapter II of the Forest Act, into the existence of rights, &c.; and 17 acres and 30 gunthás were disforested during the year.

40. No demarcation work has been performed in the Surat Collectorate. There is, however, a considerable quantity of forest-land and waste-land, covered with a fair growth of teak and other trees in the Mándvi Táluka, available for forest conservancy, and required to perfect the existing scheme.

41. In the Panch Mahál Collectorate the demarcation and settlement of all the ranges had been completed last year. The only notification still to be

issued under Section 19 is that dealing finally with an area of 881 acres provisionally notified under Section 4 in Hálol. The question, as to whether the forests of the Hálol Mahál are to remain "Reserved" or to become "Protected", referred to in paragraph 32 of last year's Administration Report, has been decided, Government having ordered that they should remain Reserved Forests.

42. In the Kálol and Hálol Ranges the forest conservancy schemes are satisfactory in so far that all the forests are reserved and finality has been secured, but in the more important Range, Godhra, such is not the case. A considerable proportion of the natural forest area, which contains a valuable growth of timber, the maintenance of which is important upon other considerations than commercial, has been transformed into "Protected Forest," and a state of uncertainty prevails which interferes with the demarcation of forest boundaries upon the ground, and the application of systematic working arrangements.

43. The following Resolutions containing the final orders of Government were passed during the year on the Settlement and Demarcation Reports of Kálol, Jhálod and Dohad:—

No. 3280, dated 22nd May 1888, Revenue Department.
No. 332, dated 14th January 1889, Revenue Department.
No. 815, dated 1st February 1889, Revenue Department.

Under the orders contained, these valuable forests also, which protect uncultivable drainage slopes, remain protected forests, and their power of serving the general welfare of the part of the country in which they are placed is very appreciably decreased, because they are subjected to treatment which tends to destruction and in no sense to continuance and improvement.

44. No fresh selections of forest areas have been undertaken in Native States by Forest Officers from the Northern Circle during the year. The demarcation scheme of the Sudhágad Táluka of the Bhor State was finally sanctioned by Government in their Resolution No. 4917, dated 24th July 1888, in the Revenue Department. Mr. Shitárám Dámodar's report upon the Fife Lake catchment, which had not been received up to 31st March 1888, as stated in paragraph 36 of last year's report, was disposed of by Government in their Resolution No. 2479, dated 29th March 1889, Revenue Department, whereby, in respect of the Fife Lake catchment, Mr. Shitátám Dámodar's proposals, although not regarded as being altogether satisfactory and adequate, were accepted as a basis for the work, Government considering it to be impossible to recommence a fresh demarcation *de novo*. Mr. Shitárám Dámodar's scheme dealt with 73 villages wherein the Forest Committee, presided over by Mr. Joshua King, C. S., had proposed to reserve 54,616 acres under forest conservancy, or about $\frac{9}{16}$ of their total area. Mr. Shitárám whittled this down to 25,518 acres nominally, of which, however, 13,749 acres belong to the Pant's Government and 11,769 acres are the property of Inámdárs, and cannot be interfered with, for the present in any case; and practically, therefore, the protection to be afforded to the Fife Lake catchment is restricted to 13,749 acres, a proportion wholly insufficient to prevent an appreciable deposition of silt occurring every year, and from the experiments—partial and defective though they be—which have been made, and which exhibit a silt deposit rate during the rains of about 8 inches, it may possibly be said that the life duration of the lake has been brought within the range of arithmetical calculation.

45. The services of two Forest Officers, from the Northern Circle, Messrs. W. G. Clabby, Acting Assistant Conservator of Forests, 3rd Grade, and Wáman Gopál Tumne, Acting Ranger, 1st Grade, were lent to Foreign States during the year. Mr. Clabby has been sent to the Rájpipla State to be Forest Officer upon a gross salary of Rs. 466-10-8 *plus* Rs. 150 permanent travelling allowance, in order to introduce forest conservancy under the orders of the Administrator of that State; and Government in their Resolution No. 5494, dated 14th August 1888, in the Political Department, directed the transfer. Mr. Wáman Gopál Tumne has been sent to Káthiáwár to serve under the Political Agent upon a gross salary of Rs. 121, per mensem, *plus* Rs. 15 travelling allowance, for a period of two years, in order to select lands for plantations and for forest conservancy.

46. Mr. Walabhrám Mulji Bhat, Ranger, 2nd Grade, whose services had been lent to the Gondal State in 1883-84 as Superintendent of Forests, returned to British service during the year under orders contained in Government Resolution No. 7449, dated 9th November 1888.